

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be no further rollcall votes today. Members may continue to introduce legislation and make statements during the morning business period. It is possible that later today the Senate may debate the nomination of William Daley to be Secretary of Commerce. However, the rollcall vote on Mr. Daley will not occur until tomorrow morning, possibly at 9:45 or 10 o'clock. We urge all colleagues to be prompt. I thank my colleagues. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for not to exceed 20 minutes unless the majority leader comes on the floor and seeks recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BUMPERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 229 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

A GRATEFUL NATION REMEMBERS

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, shortly before closing his office, our dear former colleague, Howell Heflin, asked that I insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a speech made by Greg Reed, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, at a banquet held in Birmingham the day before Veterans Day.

I would agree with Senator Heflin that Mr. Reed's speech is an excellent one, and I would ask for unanimous consent that his remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A GRATEFUL NATION REMEMBERS

(Remarks by Greg Reed)

Each year Americans give pause on Veterans Day to remember and honor the millions of men and women who have donned the uniforms of our great Nation in defense of freedom and democracy. It is a time set aside for our Nation to recognize the vanguard of freedom—American's veterans.

Our national tradition of honoring American veterans on a special day began one year after World War I ended.

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that each November 11 was to be commemorated as "Armistice Day," a day of remembrance to honor the 116,000 American "doughboys," who, in World War I, died on the battlefields of Europe.

The Great War—that's what we called World War I. Sometimes, in our idealism, we

called it "the war to end all wars." Of course, we could not know that just two decades later another war would engulf the world.

World War II would claim four times as many American lives as World War I. When the Germans invaded Poland in 1939, the world entered a holocaust unparalleled in world history.

Never before had war been waged by so many people, over so much of the globe, with such loss of life and destruction of property.

Although, 90 million troops from both sides took part in the war; 17 million of them—nearly one out of five—were consumed by it.

Another 18 million—civilians—died as a direct result of it. We'll never know the precise total of soldiers and civilians wounded and missing.

America mustered more than 16 million troops to battle on many fronts. When the war ended in 1945, more than 400,000 of them had lost their lives.

Within five short years, our nation's men and women would be summoned to answer the threat in a place deceptively known as the "Land of the Morning Calm."

Before the Korean War came to a close with an uneasy truce in 1953, nearly 35,000 Americans died, and more than 100,000 were wounded.

In 1954, Armistice Day was redesignated "Veterans Day."

First conceived to recognize those veterans who had died in World War I, the observance now was given a broader scope: to honor all American veterans in whatever war or period of peace they served.

For they were, and are, made of the same stuff. They were, and are, equally passionate in their patriotism and love of liberty.

We could not enjoy our freedom today were it not for the courage of those who defended us when we needed defending.

In the time of Vietnam, we had heroes and didn't see them. A million Americans soldiered there, and more than 58,000 of them died, some bravely, some just unluckily, all in the service of their country.

Neither the passage of time nor the vantage point of historical perspective has provided this country with answers about Vietnam or its veterans.

The sense of being alone may be the hallmark of the Vietnam experience—and it is taking many years to heal the social wounds inflicted by that war.

William Broyles, Jr., a former editor-in-chief of Newsweek and a Marine infantry officer in Vietnam, once said.

"The war in Vietnam divided America, most of all by driving a wedge between those who went and those who didn't. Vietnam divided us and troubles us still, not only in the hearts and minds of veterans and their families, but in our crippled self-confidence. It is a specter we have yet put to rest, a wound in need of healing."

For many of our fellow veterans the Vietnam war is still a terrible burden. There are too many unanswered questions about the delayed time bombs in their bodies and minds, too many unfulfilled promises about their education and their employment.

We owe them more than that. It is past time to remember the extraordinary service of these ordinary Americans.

When their country called, they answered, and they fought with all of the courage and valor of any army this nation ever sent into battle.

The men and women who served in the Gulf War paid another installment on a great debt that will never be erased so long as there are blood-bent tyrants in the world.

And, like their predecessors at Gettysburg, Normandy, Guadalcanal, Inchon or Khe Sanh, they paid in time . . . in effort . . . and in blood.

Veterans Day commemorates the courage and patriotism of all of America's veterans who have contributed so much to the cause of world peace and the preservation of our way of life.

This is our day to honor those veterans sacrificed in those struggles and pay our respects to those who survived their fallen comrades.

It is a day to celebrate the bright victories that grew from dark battles.

It is a day to review memories of past honor and sacrifice.

It is a day to dream of a brighter future.

It is a day to celebrate peace.

We can never say it too often: We are the children of your sacrifice, and we are grateful.

General Douglas MacArthur spoke of the American soldier as "one of the world's noblest figures."

Yet what sets apart the veterans we honor today? How do we identify them?

In truth, our veterans are the very embodiment of America itself. They reflect the diversity and strength that is the core of our nation.

Veterans are white . . . and they are black; they are of every race and ethnic heritage. They are men, and they are women. They are Christians, they are Muslims, they are Jews.

They're your neighbor next door, the merchant at the mall, and the police officer on the corner.

They are doctors and farmers, they are factory workers and schoolteachers.

They are 26 million Americans living today who served in the armed forces, and there are more than one million who have died in America's wars.

Most of these veterans are unsung heroes, ordinary citizens who did their duty. Their deeds have never been chronicled.

Those veterans who returned home after World War II, and those who did not, were all part of a generation from which we take inspiration.

They won the war, and then made sure we would not lose the peace. Without their subordination of self to the common good, our world would be radically different.

The tradition of the World War II veteran is the tradition of all American veterans.

From Lexington to Concord, that tradition has sustained us in every battle and every war, right up through Desert Storm.

It has marched with us and stood vigil in the frozen camps of Valley Forge, the steaming jungles of the Pacific rim, the bloody beaches of Normandy, the rice paddies of Korea and Vietnam, and the scorching sands of the Persian Gulf.

In that tradition, young, inexperienced Americans become tough, capable soldiers. They become veterans.

And they remind us all that this great nation was not established by cowards, nor will cowards preserve it.

America will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.

What we remember and honor on Veterans Day are those brave men and women who believed so much in an idea, and were so possessed by a sense of duty and honor, that they were willing to risk death for it. And the idea, of course, is liberty.

Liberty is America's core. It is central to our being, not only because it is practical and beneficial, but because it is morally just and right. But that liberty can be retained only by the eternal vigilance that has always been its price.

Americans hate war and its destructiveness. Our history reveals a passion to explore, to build, to renew, not to destroy.

The American spirit is not driven toward the domination of others.

Never has the American soldier been sent overseas to fight in the cause of conquest.